Juventus superstar Alessandro Del Piero (R) is over the moon after as teammates David Trezeguet and Paolo Montero (C) rush to congratulate him on scor-

Juve blaze on day one

still found cracks in his side's perfor-

anced and there wasn't a great deal

of cohesion," he said. "But there

was an improvement in the second

and we saw our true quality come

the future of Dutch midfielder Edgar

Davids who wasn't even named as a

substitute amid reports of a dressing

Iuliano all trained this morning for

today's match and when they are

ready. There can be no exceptions.

We didn't miss Davids, we didn't

season's Champions League, went

ahead in the 16th minute at the Delle

Gianluca Zambrotta delivered an

Di Natale went agonisingly close

inviting cross from the left wing and

Del Piero's glancing header crept in

for Empoli before the home side

doubled their advantage just after

free-kick finding the bottom corner.

ins in a 13-minute spell to equal Del

Piero's tally and Di Vaio slotted

home a penalty - which he earned

himself after being brought down in

the box - to make it 5-0.

half-time, Del Piero's low 20-yard

Trezeguet scored two easy tap-

ready they will play," Lippi added.

Lippi dodged questions about

"Davids, Igor Tudor and Mark

"I told them all they weren't

Juventus, losing finalists in last

through.'

room bust-up.

miss anybody.'

Alpi stadium.

at the far post.

"In the first-half we looked unbal-

mance despite a resounding win.

ing against Empoli at Delle Alpi's stadium in Turin on August 31.

Serie A

Football

Juventus began the defence of their

Italian league title in style with a

thumping 5-1 home win over Empoli

national Alessandro Del Piero and

strike partner David Trezeguet

helped the reigning champions on their way to a comfortable victory

Marco Di Vaio netted a late spot-

kick for Juve's fifth goal before

Antonio Di Natale grabbed a late

gave Inter Milan a nervy 2-0 win at

home to Modena, while Lazio

AS Roma, deprived of their

captain Francesco Totti because of

suspension, edged Udinese 2-1

thanks to a cheeky back-heeled

winning goal from Vincenzo

In the day's other matches.

earned a 2-2 draw away to

Brescia were held 1-1 at home to

Perugia, and Parma twice came

from behind to snatch a 2-2 draw at

local rivals Bologna in the late

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi

crushed newly-promoted Lecce 4-

Two goals in the last four minutes

over the shell-shocked Tuscans.

consolation for the visitors.

at the Olympic stadium.

Chievo, new boys Siena

Montella

Two goals apiece for Italy inter-

AFP, Rome

on Sunday

Premiership

Brought to earth by Beattie



Arsenal opened a three-point lead at the top of the early premier league standings with a 2-1 victory at Manchester City after Manchester United lost 1-0 at Southampton on

Arsenal recovered from a Lauren own goal with strikes by Sylvain Wiltord and Freddie Ljungberg to make it four straight wins, their best start since 1947, and move to 12

Champions United, the only other team to win their first three games, were sunk by James Beattie's 88th-minute header and remained second on nine points.

Cameroon defender Lauren, under pressure from Trevor Sinclair as he ran towards his own goal, sliced the ball past a bemused Jens Lehmann to give City a 10th-minute lead, which they did not look like losing as Arsenal failed to spark in the first half.

However, French forward Wiltord, left unmarked in the box, scrambled an equaliser three minutes after the break and Arsenal dominated the rest of the match

Lehmann saved twice in a minute to deny Antoine Sibierski and Nicolas Anelka during a lively City spell midway through the second half but a defensive mix-up between China's Sun Jihai and former Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman allowed Ljungberg to poke the visitors ahead after 72 minutes.

Veteran defender Martin Keown then came close to a second own goal in the 88th minute when he deflected the ball against his own crossbar but Arsenal survived.

"They surprised us with a very direct game." Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports. "They boxed us in our half and we couldn't get out. I thought we were a little bit within ourselves in the first

"We tried to make it more direct

games -- now nearly the whole squad goes away on international duty and I hope everybody comes

City manager Kevin Keegan thing from the game.

"We didn't want halftime to come, we were comfortable," he said. But when they get ahead they keep the

"I don't think they were at their best today and that's what disap-

since last December.

Forlan, both parried by Paul Jones, were the nearest they came to scoring, and American goalkeeper Tim Howard made good saves to deny Beattie and Kevin Phillips.

for a draw, which would have been Southampton's fourth in a row, until Howard failed to collect a Graeme Le Saux corner and Beattie accepted the gift from point-blank

range.
"We played well today," Southampton manager Gordon Strachan said. "I think in the last couple of games we've got back the hunger we had last year.

cent record ended on Saturday when they were held to a 2-2 home

of the season. Michael Owen scoring twice in a 3-0 success at city rivals Everton, and there were also victories for Leeds United, Fulham, Aston Villa and Birmingham City.





AFP, London

million euro (26.2 million dollar) transfer of French midfielder Claude Makelele from Real Madrid, the English Premiership side said

The move appeared threatened on Sunday when the player's agent Marc Roger said the deal might not go ahead because Real were refusing to give the player his slice of the transfer fee.

Real sporting director Jorge Valdano said from Madrid that Makelele had relinguished his

claims to his 15 per cent cut. Chelsea said the player signed under 12 hours before the Champi-

ons League qualifying deadline. four year contract, moving for an

undisclosed fee. He immediately set off to join up with the France squad who are playing Cyprus and Slovenia," web site.

Before going Makelele told Chelsea TV: "Everbody is talking about Chelsea. Real Madrid is no different to anyone. Everybody is talking about the ambition of the London club.

on strike last month in protest at Madrid's refusal to increase his salary of 1.2 million euros which he claimed was a fifth of what the likes of Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and David Beckham earn.

He was expected to triple his wages at Chelsea, who have now spent some 160 million euros this summer on new stars since Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich

"It's good a start but it's only four

ourselves in the second half.

ball the way I would like us to.

suffered their first league defeat

Chelsea's two-game 100 per

draw by Blackburn Rovers. Liverpool collected their first win



An ecstatic Southampton striker James Beattie celebrates his winning goal against Manchester United on August 31.

Finally Makelele

took over in July.

ished." he said.

AFP, Paris

side Chelsea

France (1-2)

HONOURS

ntercontinental Cup (2002)

Champions League (2002)

Spanish Super Cup (2001)

European Super Cup (2002)

French championship (1995)

Spanish championship (2001,

Chelsea chief executive Trevor

"Thats it. No more. We've fin-

Makelele, who will take the

Number 4 shirt at Chelsea, joined

Real Madrid in 2000 for 14 million

dollars from Celta Vigo, having

previously played for French sides

MAKELELE FACTS

Factfile on France international

midfielder Claude Makelele who

was due to move from Real

Madrid to English Premiership

Name: Claude Makelele

Date of birth: 18 Feb 1973

Nantes and Olympique Marseille.

Birch said Makelele was their last



Chelsea have completed the 24 Monday on the club's web site.

Birthplace: Kinshasa (Congo) "The 30 year old has signed a Nationality: French Height: 1.70m (5ft 6in) Weight: 70kg (11 stone) Position: midfielder Clubs: Brest (1991-92), Nantes Chelsea said on their 1992-97), Marseille (1997-98), Celta Vigo (SPA/1998-2000)

Real Madrid (SPA/2000-2003) INTERNATIONAL RECORD French caps: 24 First cap: 22/07/1995, Norway vs Last cap: 02/04/2003, Israel vs

The Congo-born midfielder went

back healthy.

thought his team deserved some-

United also looked jaded as they

Two long-range shots by Diego

The game looked to be heading



Becks wanted to hit Fergie!

Football

AFP, London

David Beckham has told of how he had to be restrained by his teammates from attacking Sir Alex Ferguson after the Manchester United manager kicked a football boot in his face.

"I went for the gaffer (manager). I don't know if I've ever lost control like that in my life before," explained 28-year-old England captain Beckham in an extract from his autobiography, 'My Side' serialised in British daily tabloid the Sun here

Beckham, who scored on his league debut for Spanish giants Real Madrid last weekend following his pre-season transfer from United, added: "I put one hand up to it and found myself wiping blood away off my eyebrow."

But before he could get close to Ferguson, Beckham was held back by team-mates Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville and Ruud van Nistelrooy. On Sunday, Ferguson, 61,

widely regarded as one of British football's greatest managers, saw his English champions beaten 1-0 away to Southampton in what was United's first league defeat since December 26. But not even one of the Scot's

post-match dressing room 'hairdryer' rants (so called because he stands close enough to dry the luckless player's hair) at Southampton's St Mary's Stadium could have equalled his Beckham

On February 15, United were

knocked out of the FA Cup following a 2-0 defeat against arch-rivals Arsenal.

According to Beckham, Ferguson's first words on entering the dressing room were: "David What about the second goal? What were you doing?' "It wasn't my fault," Beckham

insisted. "Their bloke's made a run off someone in central midfield." Ferguson responded by accus-

DAVID BECKHAM

ing Beckham of not listening to him. "I couldn't believe it. I'd been listening - and wanting to listen - my whole career."

Eventually, after Ferguson tried to get Beckham to admit his error. the playmaker, by his own admission unwisely, responded by swear-"What happened then doesn't

seem real now. There was a boot on the floor. He swung his leg and kicked it. Beckham said that what followed

was like "some mad scene out of a

latched on to Thomas Helveg's ball and fired last season's runners-up A rare goal from Marco

Di Natale's splendid solo effort

A stubborn Modena held Inter for

gave the few travelling Empoli fans

who chose to stay until the final

86 minutes before Christian Vieri

whistle something to cheer about.

Materazzi, a long range free-kick which flew into the top corner, put the match beyond doubt, but defeat was harsh on Modena who were unlucky not to steal a point. Lazio, who secured a place in the

group stages earlier this week after winning their third round qualifier against Benfica, made light work of First-half goals from Demetrio Albertini, Bernardo Corradi and Stefano Fiore put Roberto Mancini's

men in control at half-time before Lecce's Ivory Coast striker Cedric Konan pulled one back for the southerners. Massimo Oddo restored Lazio's

three-goal advantage six minutes from time with a heavily-deflected

Mancini was taken aback by his team's first-half performance.

"They were truly extraordinary," he said. "We tired in the second-half but that was only to be expected following our match in midweek."

Marco Delvecchio put Roma ahead early on at Udinese only for

gangster movie with them (his team-

get the gaffer.

be made public too."

mates) holding me back as I tried to

straight away, his refusal to say

sorry in public after reports of the

incident appeared in newspapers

angered Beckham. "Now this thing

was in the public eye I really

believed the gaffer's apology should

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

lings' after coming through a United

youth system reinvigorated under

Ferguson, said that only looking

back did he see how the incident

had signalled the end of what had

been the duo's close working rela-

"At any other point in my career

"I didn't realise, though, in the

as a United player, we'd have called

days after that Arsenal game, what I

know now: the boss and I had

already reached a point where there

was going to be no turning back."

it quits there and then.

Beckham, one of 'Fergie's fledg-

Although Ferguson apologised

Friday, play away to newlypromoted Ancona on Monday.

Kleberson

level the scores in the 27th minute.

Udinese's Valerio Bertotto were

sent off before Montella's master-

minute at Bologna when Andres

Guly's towering header cannoned

minutes later thanks to a sweetly

struck angled drive from Brazilian

Bologna's lead 12 minutes from

time only for home goalkeeper

Gianluca Pagliuca to fumble

Adriano's late header which earned

a point for Claudio Prandelli's young

away a two goal lead to draw 2-2 at

in charge after goals from

Francesco Cozza and David Di

Michele had given them a com-

and Aimo Diana in a nine-minute

second-half spell earned a point for

who defeated Porto 1-0 in the

European SuperCup in Monaco on

But headers from Fabio Bazzani

European champions AC Milan,

On Saturday Reggina threw

piece gave the visitors victory.

off the post and into the net.

striker Adriano.

home to Reggina.

manding half-time lead.

the spirited Genoans.

Roma's Olivier Dacourt and

Parma fell behind in the eighth

But the vistors restored parity 11

Tomas Locatelli restored

injured REUTERS, London

Manchester United's Brazilian midfielder Kleberson has dislocated his shoulder after falling awkwardly during Sunday's 1-0 premier league defeat at Southampton.

The World Cup winner, bought by United for 5.9 million pounds (\$9.4 million) from Atletico Paranaense in the close season, left the pitch holding his arm after 67 minutes, being replaced by Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Primera Liga preview

Barca at midnight!

Football

The second round of the Spanish league programme will constitute a late show for fans of Barcelona and

Spanish supporters are used to late-evening starts but for this Nou Camp encounter their evening meal can go into extra-time and sleeping bags might be required afterwards with their league match kicking off at five minutes past midnight on Wednesday morning.

While David Beckham's Real Madrid star ensemble head off to Villarreal for a sedate mid-evening start on Tuesday, Barca have decided to get their own back on Seville after their rivals refused a request to play the match a day

Barca had been hoping to have the match brought forward a day in order to field their international players, who face call-ups for Saturday internationals and who would have had to join their squads ahead of a Wednesday evening match.

None of Seville's players, in contrast, faces an international callup and the club blasted Barcelona for thinking it is "the centre of the universe" before refusing to switch Barcelona are following the letter

of the law by having the match on Wednesday as originally planned but as near to Tuesday as they can Barca hope to lure as many

nightowls as they can by offering free food and pre-match entertain ment - had they played the match an hour or two later a free breakfast might have been the better option. "Seville's rather selfish attitude is an insult to intelligence. All the other

Sleepless nights are not what Beckham will have to endure as he took only two minutes of his Primera Liga career to get on the scoresheet in Saturday's 2-1 win over Real

clubs in a similar position have

brought their match forward," said

Barca's vice-president Sandro

And with Real playing on Tuesday the England skipper can play and then join up with the national squad after the Villarreal trip for Saturday's Euro 2004 qualifier against Macedonia.

Beckham has impressed in his last two outings, also scoring in last Wednesday's Super Cup win over Mallorca, but coach Carlos Queiroz still faces media insistence that his defence needs shoring up if they are to win major honours.

Brazilian striker Ronaldo has switched to number nine from 11 with the loan departure of Fernando Morientes to Monaco, but a 14 million euro bid for Valencia's central defender Roberto Ayala has run into the sand, prompting Marca daily to trumpet on Monday: "Everything up front - nothing at the back."

Argentine international

midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, who has joined Villarreal on loan from Barcelona for this season, opened the war of words with Real. "Real are a great team but they can lose to anybody. They are not

invincible," Riquelme told Marca. Elsewhere in second day league action Osasuna, boosted by an opening-day success at Albacete, host Valencia while last year's runners-up, Real Sociedad, host Celta Vigo, with South Korean Lee Chun Soo set to make his home

Deportivo La Coruna, third last season, meet Athletic Bilbao in one of Wednesday's highlights.

Many of the Wednesday kickoff times had not been set by Monday afternoon - but none was expected to involve a midnight football feast of the kind planned by Barca.

FIXTURES Tuesday: Villarreal v Real Madrid (1900 GMT), Osasuna v Valencia (1900 GMT), Real Sociedad v Celta Vigo (1945 GMT), Barcelona

Seville (2205 GMT) Wednesday: Atletico Madrid v Albacete (1930 GMT), Murcia v Racing Santander TBA, Valladolid v Malaga TBA, Real Mallorca v Real Zaragoza TBA, Real Betis v Espanyol TBA, Deportivo La Coruna v Athletic Bilbao - TBA

Ronaldo getting '9' back



Real Madrid's Brazil star Ronaldo can snap up his favoured number nine shirt at the Spanish giants Fernando Morientes was loaned out to French side Monaco.

Ronaldo, who fired Brazil to World Cup glory last year as his country's number nine, had had to put up with No 11 at Real following his move from Inter Milan because Morientes was registered in the centre forward's traditional shirt.

The Brazilian superstar, who notched the winner in Saturday's 2-1 win over Real Betis, has an internet site which sells merchan-

dise labelled R9

England star David Beckham has been a victim of the numbers'

game at Real and is wearing number 23 rather than his 'traditional' seven. French star Zinedine Zidane wears five - although with France he has inherited former giant

because Portugal's Luis Figo wears 10 with Real. "Ronaldo will wear nine and Javier Portillo will take the number 11," Jorge Valdano told the Onda

Michel Platini's number 10 shirt

Cero radio station. "If anyone has bought a Ronaldo shirt for this season with the old number on it we'll change it

Bye, bye Brazil!



AFP. Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian football has been hit by an unprecedented exodus of players to foreign clubs, according to the Agencia Estado (AE) news service here on Sunday.

In the past five months, some 52 talented young Brazilians, mostly strikers, have left the country which has won the World Cup a record five imes, to ply their trade abroad.

The most recent departures include striker Deivid, the joint top scorer so far this season in the Brazilian first division with Cruziero, who left for top-flight French club

Other cases were Ricardo Oliveira who joined Spanish side Valencia from Pele's former club Santos, and Liedson who got the goahead to sign for Sporting Lisbon from Corinthians.

Cash-strapped Brazilian clubs are being forced to sell their most talented players in order to pay their debts with Cruzeiro receiving 2.45 million dollars for Deivid.